

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 OES-03 PM-03 L-02 NSC-05

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R 051310Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0467

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2012

E.O. 11652: GOS

TAGS: SG, PINT, PINS

SUBJ: THIRTEEN SENEGALESE SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POLITICAL  
ACTIVITIES

REF: DAKAR 2011 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: A SPECIAL SECURITY COURT SENTENCED THIRTEEN LITTLE-  
KNOWN SENEGALESE ON APRIL 2, TO PRISON TERMS VARYING FROM FIVE  
YEARS TO THREE MONTHS FOR ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST SECURITY OF THE  
STATE, CREATION OF AN ILLEGAL POLITICAL PARTY AND DIFFUSION OF  
TRACTS FALSELY DISCREDITING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, FRAGMENTARY PRESS REPORTS APPEARING  
IN LE MONDE AND GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED LE SOLEIL INDICATED THAT  
MINETEEN PERSONS WERE ARRESTED SOMETIME IN MARCH FOR DISTRIBUTING  
TRACTS. ACTUALLY TWENTY WERE ARRESTED AND SEVEN RELEASED WITHOUT  
BEING CHARGED. CONVICTED SENEGALESE WERE CHARGED WITH HAVING  
DISEMINATED POLITICAL TRACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING FOR OVER  
A YEAR. AT LEAST ONE TRACT APPARENTLY HAS BEEN CIRCULATED AFTER  
ARRESTS.

2. PROVISIONS OF PENAL CODE UNDER WHICH ACCUSED CONVICTED WERE  
ARTICLE 80, WHICH PROVIDES THAT ACTS COMPROMISING PUBLIC SECURITY  
OR OCCASIONING SERIOUS POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES OR CASTING DISCREDIT  
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ON POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS ARE PUNISHABLE, AND ARTICLE 255 WHICH

PROVIDES THAT PUBLICATION AND DIFFUSION OF FALSE REPORTS OR MATERIALS FALSELY ATTRIBUTED TO THIRD PARTIES IS PUNISHABLE, WHEN SUCH PUBLICATION OR DIFFUSION ENTAILS BREAKING LAWS OF COUNTRY, THREATENS MORALE OF POPULATION OR CASTS DISCREDIT ON PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. SOME DEFENDANTS ALSO CHARGED WITH VIOLATING LAW REQUIRING POLITICAL PARTIES TO BE REGISTERED WITH GOVERNMENT.

3. THOSE CONVICTED WITH LENGTH OF TERMS: ASSANE LAVANE, 5 YEARS IN ABSENTIA; LANDING SAVANE, 2 YEARS; PAPA TOUTI SOW, 1 YEAR; ABDOU GUEYE, 3 MONTHS SUSPENDED SENTENCE; DJIBRIL SAMB 6 MONTHS; ROGER BONAVENTURE COLY, 1 YEAR; IBRAHIMA SONKO, 15 DAYS; AMADOU MOKTAR DIO, 6 MONTHS; MASSAMBA DIENG, 2 MONTHS; BOUBACAR MANE, 6 MONTHS; ABDOU WAHAB DIENE, 3 MONTHS; AMADOU ADY NDIR, 3 MONTHS SUSPENDED SENTENCE; AND ALIOUNE DIO, 6 MONTHS.

4. LEADERS OF CONVICTED GROUP SAID BY GOVERNMENT TO BE LANDING SAVANE (SEE SEPTTEL) AND ASSANE SAVANE WHO ARE BROTHERS. LANDING FORMER GOS OFFICIAL. ASSANE'S OCCUPATION NOT GIVEN. GUEYE'S OCCUPATION LISTED AS PLUMBER. ADI NDIR AND ABDOU DIENE ACCUSED OF BEING EX-MILITANTS OF NOW DEFUNCT CRYPTO-COMMUNIST PARTY, PARTI AFRICAIN POUR L'INDEPENDANCE. LATTER TWO ALSO SAID TO HAVE VISITED MOSCOW AND CHINA. GOVERNMENT CHARGED ACCUSED SOME OF WHOM FROM SINE SALOUM AND CASAMANCE, PART OF NETWORK WHICH EXTENDED BEYOND CAPITAL AND WHOSE OBJECT WAS TO DIFFUSE ANTI-GOVERNMENT TRACTS.

5. EVIDENCE AGAINST ACCUSED APPARENTLY CONSISTED LARGELY OF SMALL NUMBERS OF TRACTS FOUND IN THEIR POSSESSION, ADMISSIONS BY ACCUSED REGARDING THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS AND CORRESPONDENCE ALLUDING IN VEILED MANNER TO POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN QUESTION. AT HOME OF ALASSANE SAVANE DOCUMENTS WERE ALSO FOUND WHICH INDICATED TRACT BEING CIRCULATED, XARE BI (WHICH MEANS WARE IN WOLOF), WAS TO BE ORGAN OF NEW POLITICAL PARTY CALLED RENWU REWMI (ROOTS OF THE NATION). DOCUMENTS SETTING FORTH STRUCTURE AND PROGRAM OF PARTY WERE ALSO FOUND IN SAVANE'S HOME. UNCLEAR EXTENT TO WHICH OTHERS BESIDES ALASSANE SAVANE ACCUSED OF TRYING TO FORM POLITICAL PARTY. APPARENTLY MOST MERELY ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATION IN DISSEMINATION OF XARE BI.

6. GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR ARGUED AT TRIAL THAT ACCUSED DID NOT NEED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO ENGAGE IN CLANDESTINE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BECAUSE CONSTITUTION OF SENEGAL GIVES THEM RIGHT TO FORM POLITICAL PARTY IF THEY CONFORM WITH PROPER PROCEDURES FOR REGISTRATION AND AUTHORIZATION OF THAT PARTY. SIMILARLY, HE SAID, EXISTENCE OF OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER LE DEMOCRATE, WHICH IS ORGAN OF OPPOSITION PDS POLITICAL PARTY PROVES THAT IT NOT NECESSARY TO RESORT TO CLANDESTINE DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL TO PUT FORTH POLITICAL VIEWS IN OPPOSITION TO THOSE OF GOVERNMENT.

6. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT HAS LONG FELT DISTRIBUTION OF CLANDESTINE TRACTS TO BE THORN IN ITS SIDE, BUT DISTRIBUTORS OF TRACTS HAVE NEVER CONSTITUTED SERIOUS THREAT TO GOVERNMENT. ARREST MAY DISCOURAGE FURTHER PUBLICATION OF SUCH MATERIALS BUT IT LIKELY SOONER OR LATER MORE TRACTS WILL APPEAR. EXCEPT FOR LANDING SAVANE, (REFTEL) NONE OF "CONSPIRATORS" ARE KNOWN TO EMBASSY. POLICE SOURCES TOLD EMB OFFICER THAT ALL OF ACCUSED SENEGALESE WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL INFLUENCE. HOWEVER, SOME SOURCES BELIEVE THAT KNOWLEDGEABLE SENEGALESE OFFICIALS WITHIN GOVERNMENT FURNISHING AMMUNITION FOR THESE POLITICAL TRACTS.

ALLEGED CONNECTION OF TWO CONVICTED PERSONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND CHINA LIKELY TO REINFORCE GOVERNMENT'S VIGILANCE OF ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNIST NATIONS, ESPECIALLY SOVIET UNION, IN SENEGAL.  
AGGREY

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